

The Book of Proverbs

Godly Wisdom for Everyday Life

SSBC Proverbs Bible Study # 12

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.

A Portrait of the Wise

Key Passage: Proverbs 11:16-17

Related Passages: Proverbs 12:10; 18:1;24:17

Sermon Date: December 16, 2007

The wise benefit from their kindness.

How did you react the last time you were treated rudely? Isn't our first reflex to return a rude response right back?

Human nature ordinarily says, "I will treat you as you treat me". Kindness, however also triggers this like-for-like reflex. Often kindness can draw even a self-centered person away, at least temporarily, from their rude attitude to one of civility. Have you ever experienced this?

This weeks study takes a look at the Bibles guiding principles on this subject and how the wise benefit from exercising kindness. Let's explore the Scriptures together and observe God's desire for kindness and gentleness.

1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the following charts to note your observations and any questions you have.
 The first verse below is the key verse for this study. Keeping this verse in mind, read each of the subsequent verses and note how each provides further insight into the meaning of this key verse.

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p>Key Verse Proverbs 11:16-17 (NIV)</p> <p>11:16 A kindhearted woman gains respect,</p> <p>but ruthless men gain only wealth.</p> <p>11:17 A kind man benefits himself,</p> <p>but a cruel man brings trouble on himself.</p> <hr/> <p>12:10 A righteous man cares for the needs of his animal,</p> <p>but the kindest acts of the wicked are cruel.</p>	

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p>18:1 An unfriendly man pursues selfish ends;</p> <p>he defies all sound judgment.</p> <p>24:17 Do not gloat when your enemy falls;</p> <p>when he stumbles, do not let your heart rejoice,</p> <p>24:18 or the LORD will see and disapprove</p> <p>and turn his wrath away from him.</p>	

2. Next, use this chart to interpret some key observations.

a. From the chart on the previous pages, select a few of your observations & questions that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and then interpret and apply each of them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father,? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it Say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

3. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- ◆ **Sins** to avoid
- ◆ **Promises** to believe
- ◆ **Examples** to follow (remember "SPECK")
- ◆ **Commands** to obey
- ◆ **Knowledge** to share

Don't just write things to write them — listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

Can a persons change from being self-centered to kind? Absolutely. How? By the undeserved kindness of Christ poured out on a selfish, cruel and ungrateful heart.

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:6-8

Christ died for us and rose again so that we could also die to our old life and have his new life in us. Right now, ask Jesus Christ to come into your heart and be the Lord of your life. Commit yourself to becoming his follower. Won't you do this right now? You will not regret it.

*These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon as inserts in the church bulletin and are also posted at <http://sermonhouse.com/SSBC>. Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact **studyeditor@southshorebaptist.com***

*South Shore Baptist Church
578 Main Street, Hingham, MA 02043
(781) 749-2592*